——THE TEACHINGS OF——

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

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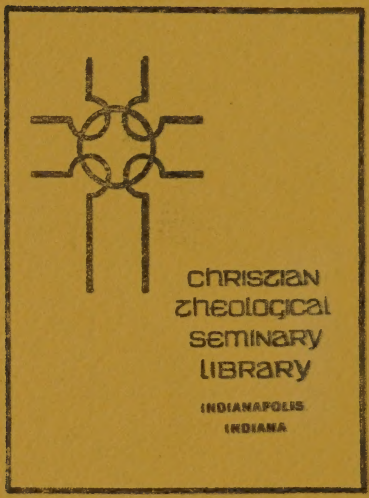
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——THE TEACHINGS OF——

THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

According to the Word of God the true Church is founded by Jesus Christ and built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ, himself, being the chief corner stone; in whom the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom we also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. Eph. 2:20-21.

Our chief aim is to glorify God our Savior, even Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works; that we should show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light; and that we may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom we shine as light in the world, holding forth the Word of Life, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide their feet into the way of peace. See Tit. 2:13, 14; 1 Pet. 2:9; Phil. 2:15, 16; Lu. 1:79.

Our duty is to lift up the fallen, visit the sick, strengthen the weak, encourage the fainthearted, comfort the feeble-minded, point the lost to the way of salvation, and urge all believers to seek a

spirit-filled life (Eph. 5:18; Acts 19:1-6) and prepare for the coming of the Lord. (Jas. 1:27; 1 Thes. 5:14; Mar. 16:15-18; Matt. 25:1-13.)

Moreover it is our indispensable duty, as partakers of the "royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10), to offer supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks for all men; for kings, presidents, governors, magistrates and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Tim. 2:1-4; Rom. 13:1-7). And to submit ourselves "to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme, or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well," so long as these ordinances do not infringe upon the liberty of service towards God according to the dictation of the heart or consciense. (See 1 Pet. 2:13-17; Tit. 3:1, 2; Mat. 22:21.)

APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE AND FELLOWSHIP

Our Creed, Discipline, Rules of Order, and Doctrine is the WORD of God as taught and revealed by the Holy Ghost. John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:9-13.

All scripture is given by the inspriation of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for Reprobf, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

ARTICLE I.

MEMBERSHIP—HOW OBTAINED

As members of the body of Christ, which is the True Church (Eph. 1:22, 23,) the Word of God declares but one way of entrance therein and that is, "By one spirit are we all baptized into one Body," and that is a baptism of "water and spirit." 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Gal. 3:26-28; Rom. 6:3, 4; John 3:5; Acts 2:38.

ARTICLE II.

RECORD OF MEMBERSHIP

The names of the members are kept on record in heaven. (Lu. 10:20.) For it is written, "The Lord shall count, when He writeth up the people, that this man was born here." (Pas. 87:5, 6.) All must be "born of water and spirit" in this dispensation, if they desire their names to be written in heaven See Hebrews 12:22-23.

ARTICLE III

HOW NAMES ARE BLOTTED OUT

We have nothing to do with that whatever, for thus saith the Lord, "whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I BLOT out of My book." Ex. 31:33. And again, "He that overcometh * * * I will not BLOT out his name out of the book of Life. Rev. 3:5.

ARTICLE IV.

GOD'S STANDARD OF SALVATION

We earnestly contend for God's standard of Salvation. In the Word of God we can find nothing short of a Holy, Spirit-filled Life with SIGNS FOLLOWING as on the Day of Pentecost. Mark

16:16, 17; Acts 2:4; 8:14-17; 9:17, 18; 10:44-48; 19:1-6. See Rom. 12:1, 2; Heb. 12:14; Matt. 5:48; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16.

ARTICLE V.

REPENTANCE AND REMISSION OF SINS

The only grounds upon which God will accept a sinner is Repentance from the heart for the sins that he has committed. A broken and contrite heart, He will not despise. (Psa. 51:17.) John preached Repentance. Jesus Proclaimed it, and before His ascension commanded that Repentance and Remmission of Sins should be preached in His Name, beginning at Jerusalem. (Lu. 24:47.) And Peter fulfilled this command on the Day of Pentecost. See Acts 2:38.

ARTICLE VI.

DIVINE HEALING

The Lord alone is our Healer. Ex. 15:26; Pas. 103:2, 3. The Lord made our bodies. Should it be thought a thing incredible that He can heal us? With His stripes we are healed. Isa. 53:4, 5, with Matt. 8:14-17. See John 14:12; Mar. 16:17; James 5:14.

ARTICLE VII.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Melchizedek, the Priest of the Most High God, gave the first Communion to our Father Abraham, consisting of Bread and Wine. (Gen. 14:18.) Christ, being come a High Priest "after the order of Melchizedek," evidently administered the same. (Heb. 6:20.) Water and Grape Juice are modern substi-

tutions that have been invented by the formal Church of today, in which are many who have never been regenerated and born of the Spirit. (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-32.)

ARTICLE VIII.

FEET WASHING

This ordinance is as much a divine command as any other New Testament ordinance. Jesus gave us an example that we should do even as He had done. He said that we ought to wash one another's feet. And again, "if ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them." (John 13:4-17.) There is scriptural evidence that this was practiced by the Church in the days of the Apostle Paul. (1 Tim. 5:10.)

ARTICLE IX.

THE COMING OF JESUS

That Jesus is to come to earth again in person is a doctrine clearly set forth in apostolic times. Jesus taught it. The Apostles preached it. And the saints expected it. See Matt. 24:1, etc.; Acts 1:11; 3:19-21; 1 Cor. 1:7, 8; 11:26; Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 Thess. 4:14-18; Tit. 2:13, 14.

ARTICLE X.

OFFERING

The old method of begging, rallying, giving socials, shows and concerts to carry on God's work is not God's plan. We believe that if the people of God would obey His word there would be plenty on hand to carry on His work without scheming and graftng. "Tithing and free-will offerings" is

God's plan. Gen. 14:20; 28:22; Mal. 3:8-12. See Ex-25:2; 35:5, 21, 29.

ARTICLE XI.

COLLECTIONS ON THE STREET

Collecting money, or begging on the streets during street services, is a thing not pleasing to the Lord. It leaves an impression that the people of God are more engaged in getting money than for the salvation of the lost, and causes many to pass by, who otherwise should stop and hear the gospel. We should preach the gospel free, without charge (1 Cor. 9:18,) but if any feel diposed to give an offering at such times, let it be graciously received as from the Lord. See Isa. 55:1; 1 Cor. 10:33.

ARTICLE XII.

In time of persecution, or ill-treatment at the hands of an enemy we should not "avenge ourselves," but rather give place to wrath; for it is written "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." (Rom. 12:19; Deut. 32:35.) Neither shall we take up any weapon of destruction to slay another, whether in our own defense, or in the defense of others, for it is written, "Do violence to no man." (See Lu. 3:14; Matt. 26:52; John 18:36; 15:18, 19.)) We should rather suffer wrong than to do wrong.

ARTICLE XIII.

All civil magistrates are ordained of God for peace, safety, and the welfare of all people (Rom. 13:1-10), therefore, it is our duty to be in obedience to all requirements of the laws that are not contrary to the word of God, and that does not

force one to the violation of the sixth commandment by bearing arms, or going to war. It is our duty to honor them, pay tribute, or such taxation as may be required without murmuring (Matt. 17: 24-27; 22:17-21), and show respect to them in all lawful requirements of the civil government.

ARTICLE XIV.

According to the word of God we firmly believe and hold that the people of God should have no connection whatever with labor unions, secret societies, or any other organization or body wherein there is a fellowship with unbelievers, bound by an oath. Jas. 5:(3-) 7; 2 Cor. 6:14-18. We are exhorted by the word of God to "be content with such things as we have," and "be content with our wages." 1 Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5; Lu. 3:14.

ARTICLE XV.

We believe that the time draweth near for the coming of the Lord to make a change in the present order of things, and at that time all the righteous dead shall arise from their graves, and we that are alive and living righteous before God shall be translated or "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air. Matt. 24:36-42; Lu. 17:20-37; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Phil. 3:20, 21; Thes. 4:13-17.

ARTICLE VI.

Moreover, we believe that the distress upon the earth is the "beginning of sorrows" and will become more intense until there "shall be a time of trouble such as there never was since there was a nation even to that same time" (Matt. 24:3-8; Dan. 12:1,

and that that period of "tribulation" will be followed by the dawn of a better day on earth. And that for one thousand years there shall be "peace on earth and good will toward men." (Rev. 29:1-5; Isa. 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Dan. 7:27; Mic. 4:1, 2; Hab. 2:14; Rom. 11:25-27.)

ARTICLE XVII.

FINAL JUDGMENT

When the thousand years are finished there shall be a resurrection of all the dead, who shall be summoned before the Great White Throne for their final judgment, and all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, burning with brimstone, which God hath prepared for the devil and his angels, Satan being cast in first. Rev. 20:7-10; Matt. 25:41-46; Rev. 21:8.

ARTICLE XVIII.

WHOLLY SANCTIFIED LIFE

We believe that in order to escape the judgments of God and to have the hope of enjoying the glory of life eternal, one must be thoroughly saved from their sins, wholly sanctified unto God and filled with the Holy Ghost. And that a wholly sanctified life is the only true standard of a Christian Life. Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 1:15-17.

Apostolic Faith Assembly

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